

Appl. No. 09/903,217  
Arnd. Dated May 24, 2005  
Reply to Office Action of March 30, 2005

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9 at line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

To avoid an explosion in the number of paths between two nodes that are considered for use as a part of an actual path, an SPT prunes a "tree" or list of potential paths. In one embodiment, the paths may be pruned such that when alternate paths which correspond to the paths exist, their availability as alternate paths is effectively ensured. One method for effectively ensuring that an alternate path is available if one exists is described in co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/872,177 (Atty. Docket No. CISCP691/4052), filed June 1, 2001, which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. The SPT may be further arranged such that essentially no additional computational requirements are needed when paths are computed in networks which do not have mixed protection domains.